

SENATE BILL 4149

By Kyle

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated,
Title 68, Chapter 5, Part 2, relative to
treatment of newborns' eyes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-5-201 is amended by deleting the language of that section in its entirety.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-5-202 is amended by deleting the existing language in its entirety and substituting instead the following new language:

(a) It is the duty of any physician, nurse or midwife who assists and is in charge at the birth of any infant, or has the care of the infant after birth, to treat the eyes of the infant with a prophylaxis to prevent ophthalmia neonatorum or infections leading to blindness. The treatment shall be given as soon as practicable after the birth of the infant and always within one (1) hour; and if any redness, swelling, inflammation, or gathering of pus appears in the eyes of the infant or upon the lid or about the eyes within two (2) weeks after birth, then any nurse, midwife or other person having care of the infant shall report the condition within six (6) hours after its discovery to a physician licensed and practicing medicine in Tennessee.

(b) A violation of this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.